

HOUSE No. 646

By Ms. Fox of Boston, petition of Gloria L. Fox and others relative to election day registration. Election Laws.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PETITION OF:

Gloria L. Fox	Brian A. Joyce
Cynthia S. Creem	Willie Mae Allen
James B. Eldridge	William N. Brownsberger
Benjamin Swan	William Lantigua
Jay R. Kaufman	Susan C. Fargo
Louis L. Kafka	Timothy J. Toomey, Jr.
Frank I. Smizik	Anthony J. Verga
Ellen Story	Robert K. Coughlin
Ruth B. Balser	Dianne Wilkerson
Elizabeth A. Malia	Cory Atkins
Denise Provost	Patricia D. Jehlen
J. James Marzilli, Jr.	Martin J. Walsh
Kay Khan	Geoffrey D. Hall
Michael E. Festa	Carl M. Sciortino, Jr.
Barbara A. L'Italian	Marie P. St. Fleur
Douglas W. Petersen	Steven J. D'Amico
Edward M. Augustus, Jr.	Jennifer M. Callahan
Jarrett T. Barrios	Charles A. Murphy

In the Year Two Thousand and Seven.

AN ACT RELATIVE TO ELECTION DAY REGISTRATION.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 34 of Chapter 51 of the General Laws, as
2 appearing in the 2004 Official Edition, is hereby amended by
3 striking in line 1 the words "After eight o'clock" and inserting in
4 place thereof the following:—

5 "Except as provided in Section 34A of this chapter, after eight
6 o'clock"

1 SECTION 2. Said Section 51 of the General Laws is hereby fur-
2 ther amended by adding after Section 34 the following new
3 section:—

4 34A. (a) An individual who is eligible to vote may register on the
5 day of an election or primary by appearing in person, at the office of
6 the registrar or at the polling place for the precinct in which the indi-
7 vidual resides, providing proof of residence, proof of identity, and
8 making an oath in a form prescribed by the secretary of the Com-
9 monwealth.

10 (b) For purposes of this section, the term “proof of residence”
11 shall mean any one of the following so long as it includes the appli-
12 cant’s address:—

13 (i) a current and valid government-issued photo identification,
14 such as a valid Massachusetts drivers license, a state-issued identifi-
15 cation card, official student identification card, or;

16 (ii) other documentation demonstrating the name and address of
17 the voter, such as a current utility bill, bank statement, government
18 check, paycheck, or other government document.

19 (c) For purposes of this section, the term “proof of identity” shall
20 mean:— a current and valid photo identification issued by a govern-
21 ment agency or an educational institution, such as a US passport, a
22 valid Massachusetts drivers license, a state-issued identification
23 card, or official student identification card.

24 (d) Upon the production of proof of residence, proof of identity,
25 and making an oath as prescribed by the secretary of the Common-
26 wealth sufficient to support registration, the registrar or his or her
27 designee shall permit the applicant to vote on the day of an election
28 or primary and shall place the applicant’s name and address on the
29 annual register of voters as soon as reasonably possible, but not later
30 than 5 days after the election. Any person who registers to vote on
31 the day of an election or primary in accordance with this section
32 shall, absent disqualification, be registered to vote at all subsequent
33 elections.

34 (e) In order to facilitate such election day voter registration, the
35 state secretary shall make available, to the election officers at each
36 polling place, access to the central registry of voters set forth in
37 Section 47C of this chapter.

38 (f) Violations of this section shall be punishable pursuant to
39 Section 8 of Chapter 56.